

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

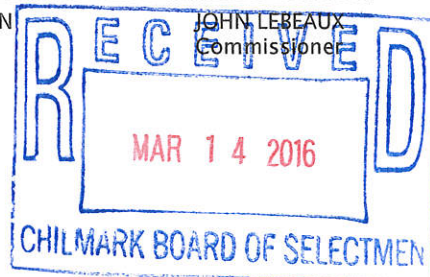
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary



March 10, 2016

Greetings Massachusetts Animal Control Officers and Supervisors,

Registration is now open for the Massachusetts Animal Fund Animal Control Officer Training Institute Animal Control Core Competencies Training.

As you know, in 2012 a law took effect that, in part, created the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund (Massachusetts Animal Fund). The Fund is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with the assistance of an advisory committee. The purpose of the Fund is to support municipal animal control programs by offsetting the cost of spaying and neutering homeless animals and those animals owned by residents with financial need, as well as to provide professional training for animal control officers (ACOs).

Late last year we completed a survey of ACOs that helped us to assess current level of training and identify gaps in knowledge. In response to the survey feedback, in conjunction with the Department's assessment of existing ACO training, we have created the Massachusetts Animal Fund Animal Control Officer Training Institute. As per Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012, Section 51, and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, Section 151C, we will offer this mandatory training free of charge to Massachusetts ACOs now that we have generated enough revenue to properly fund such instruction.

The Animal Control Core Competencies training course is comprised of a mandatory 14-credit-hour course, which can be taken over the course of two days or three evenings. We are offering this training in six regions across the Commonwealth.

Region One: Boston-area			
Day	Tues. 4/19/16, Wed. 4/20/16	8 AM- 4 PM	Malden Police Station Malden, MA
Evening	Tues. 4/26/16 - Thurs. 4/28/16	4 PM - 9 PM	Malden Police Station Malden, MA
Region Two: Pittsfield-area			
Day	Tues. 5/3/16, Wed. 5/4/16	8 AM- 4 PM	Berkshire Humane Society Pittsfield, MA
Evening	Tues. 5/10/16 - Thurs. 5/12/16	4 PM - 9 PM	Berkshire Humane Society Pittsfield, MA
Region Three: Worcester-area			
Day	Tues. 5/17/16, Wed. 5/18/16	8 AM- 4 PM	MA Div. Fisheries and Wildlife Headquarters Westborough, MA
Evening	Tues. 5/24/16- Thurs. 5/26/16	4 PM - 9 PM	The Cummings School at Tufts University North Grafton, MA

Region Four: Springfield-area			
Day	Tues. 5/31/16, Wed. 6/1/16	8 AM- 4 PM	Dakin Humane Society Springfield, MA
Evening	Mon. 6/6/16 - Wed. 6/8/16	4 PM - 9 PM	Dakin Humane Society Springfield, MA
Region Five: Plymouth-area			
Day	Tues. 6/14/16, Wed. 6/15/16	8 AM- 4 PM	Plymouth County Sheriff's Department Plymouth, MA
Evening	Tues. 6/21/16 - Thurs 6/23/16	4 PM - 9 PM	Plymouth County Sheriff's Department Plymouth, MA
Region Six: Lowell-area			
Day	Tues. 6/28/16, Wed. 6/19/16	8 AM- 4 PM	Chelmsford Police Station Chelmsford, MA
Evening	Tues. 7/5/16 - Thurs. 7/7/16	4 PM - 9 PM	Chelmsford Police Station Chelmsford, MA

Please go to the registration portal: <http://massanimalfund.com/aco/> to sign up. Classroom size will be limited for each session; register early to get your preferred location. You must register for a class to attend this mandatory training.

ACOs will additionally be required to complete any combination of instructor-led (8 credits) or online (2 credits) courses to complete a total of 30 credits. Information on these additional courses will be available after the Core Competencies training course is completed. Those ACOs who have taken an approved comprehensive training during their career—such as courses offered by the Animal Control Officer Association of Massachusetts, the National Animal Care & Control Association, or the New England Animal Control/Humane Academy—will be exempt from acquiring the additional 16 credits necessary to complete the state-mandated training requirement during the first year. After initial training, all ACOs will be required to complete continuing education, either through the Massachusetts Animal Fund Animal Control Officer Training Institute (free of charge) or another approved provider (not reimbursable).

Prior to attending the Core Competencies training course we recommend that you review the Animal Control Core Competencies Handbook, as it outlines the duties and responsibilities of the ACO(s) in your municipality and applicable animal control laws including record-keeping requirements. You should have received a copy of this handbook in early May; if you have not received it, please let us know and we will try to make arrangements for another to be sent.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Lauren L. Gilfeather
Mass Animal Fund Coordinator
lauren.gilfeather@state.ma.us
617-626-1790